

Claims

5        1. The use of whey protein, or a protein mixture which simulates the amino acid profile of whey protein, as a protein source in the preparation of a enterally administrable nutritional composition for increasing plasma glutamine concentration in a stressed mammal.

10      2. The use of whey protein, or a protein mixture which simulates the amino acid profile of whey protein, as a protein source in the preparation of a enterally administrable nutritional composition for increasing muscle glutamine concentrations in a mammal.

15      3. The use of whey protein, or a protein mixture which simulates the amino acid profile of whey protein, as a protein source in the preparation of a enterally administrable nutritional composition for providing glutamine to a mammal suffering from injured, diseased or under-developed intestines.

20      4. The use according to claim 3 in which the mammal is a pre-term infant having an under-developed intestine.

25      5. The use according to claim 4 in which the whey protein is hydrolyzed and the protein source further comprises arginine, tyrosine and histidine.

6. The use according to claim 1 in which the whey protein is hydrolyzed whey protein.

30      7. The use according to claim 6 in which the hydrolyzed whey protein contains less than about 5% by weight of free amino acids, about 15% to about 55% by weight of peptides having a molecular weight of less than 1000 Da, about 20% to about 55% by weight of peptides having a molecular weight of 1000 Da to 5000 Da, and about 15% to about 35% by weight of peptides having a molecular weight of greater than 5000 Da.

35      8. The use according to any of claims 1 to 3 in which the protein source provides about 10% to about 20% of the energy of the nutritional composition.

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9. The use according to any of claims 1 to 3 in which the nutritional composition further includes a lipid source which provides about 20% to about 50% of the energy of the nutritional composition, the lipid source comprising a mixture of medium chain and long chain fatty acids.

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10. The use according to any of claims 1 to 3 in which the nutritional composition further includes a carbohydrate source which provides about 35% to about 65% of the energy of the nutritional composition.

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